



PARRA NOTES

Friday, April 29

During my visit to the District this weekend I got to meet with over **200** students who took part in my **Teen Awareness Summit** at **Delano High School**. I also visited with **Delano** constituent, **Mark Zaninovich**, who graciously gave me a tour of **Zaninovich Farms**. During my **Agriculture Advisory Group** meeting, I had the pleasure of meeting with **Don Ludy**, **Matthew Park** and **Randy Abbott**. Friday evening I spent with the **Tulare-Kings Chapter of California Women for Agriculture** at their annual fundraiser dinner in **Tulare**. While in **Bakersfield**, I interviewed two amazing young High School Students, **Kristina Dang** and **Thomas Lewis** for the University of California, Berkeley 2005 Alumni Scholarship.

The highlight of my **Capitol** meetings was by far getting to meet with a group of students representing the **MESA** (Mathematics Engineering Science Achievement) program in the district. I got to take them on the Assembly floor with me.

My Legislative Update

Today is the last day for policy committees to hear and report non-fiscal bills that were introduced in the Assembly. So if you can imagine, there was a mad dash all week for Assembly Members to get their bills heard before today's deadline.

I am excited to report that **AB 649** was approved by the Assembly and is now on it's way to the Senate side. Below is a list of my bills that passed through committee this week. If you would like additional information on any of these, please feel free to contact any of my offices listed below.

AB 520 Ag Commissioner will allow County Agriculture Commissioners to impose fines to any person for misuse of the "California Grown" seal. No monetary penalties currently exist. Headed to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 649 Tomato Commission will provide that the commission shall establish an assessment for tomatoes produced inside and outside of the state. Approved by the Assembly headed to the Senate Agriculture Committee for vote.

AB 734 Kangaroo Leather Importation will clarify Penal Code Section 653o by allowing the sale of products made of non-endangered species of kangaroo in the State of California. Headed to Assembly floor to vote.

AB 1091 Discount Card Regulations will provide the Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC) with the authority to register all health care discount card programs, issue regulations and conduct enforcement activities. Headed to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 1542 Judge Discretion on Sentencing will amend section 1170.90 of the Penal Code to authorize judges to refer veterans diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and have been convicted of a crime to treatment programs in lieu of incarceration. Headed to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

Other Highlights

SOUTHERN AD AGRICULTURE ADVISORY GROUP MEETING

This weekend I had the opportunity to meet with my Southern Assembly District Agriculture Advisory Group. I updated them on my ag related legislation such as **AB 460**, **AB 469** and **AB 520**. More importantly, I got to hear from them on their concerns. Many of them expressed concern over issues relating to water, immigration and specifically Senate Bill 820, authored by State Senator Sheila Kuehl. I have asked Senator Kuehl to take part in our next meeting so that she may update us on her bill. If passed, SB 820 will change multiple aspects of water law.

VALLEY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

The Valley Leadership Institute will take place on Monday, June 20th to Wednesday, June 22nd. Last day to submit an application is today, Friday, April 29th. Individuals interested in the Institute should contact Teresa Plascencia as soon as possible at (559) 585-7170.

GRANTS

Beginning late June my office will be distributing grant packages. Included in the package will be information regarding, state, federal and private grants. For more information please contact Jeff Forbes at (559) 585-7170 or by e-mail at jeff.forbes@asm.ca.gov.

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